

Curriculum Statement Art and Design

The Art Department is committed to ensuring that all students will be able to have full inclusive access to a rich and stimulating curriculum delivered by enthusiastic, well-qualified and passionate staff. The Art Department will provide a vibrant and stimulating environment where individuals feel supported, whilst also being encouraged to succeed to the best of their ability.

The arts enrich the quality of our experiences, providing rewarding activities that inspire, inform, stimulate, challenge and entertain. Involvement in the arts helps to foster a positive attitude among students by developing a wide range of personal qualities such as cooperation, enthusiasm, passion, inspiration, tenacity and ambition which support the development of the whole child.

Students will be supported within the Art curriculum to develop resilience and be productive in their work in order to aim for the higher attainment targets. Schemes of learning will be devised to ensure that students complete challenging and sustained work, including completing final pieces where their skills can be consolidated.

In order to fully experience and evolve the creative process, all students will be encouraged and supported to become independent learners to be able to self-regulate and make informed choices about how to develop their learning and make progress. The Art Department will deliver structured learning experiences which will provide a framework for progressive learning and assessment. The units of learning will be sufficiently flexible to enable all individuals to explore and develop their own ideas and personal expression throughout their creative journeys. Materials and equipment will be provided to ensure that there is full access to the subject for all. Each unit of learning will allow students to be exposed to a range of artwork from different social, economic, historical and cultural sources in order to develop a wider appreciation and immersion in the subject as well as develop cultural capital.

In line with National Curriculum and examination board requirements, students are taught to use a range of forms in order to record their written and visual observations, for example in sketchbooks and portfolios. The skill of using a sketchbook creatively and effectively is taught throughout key stage three so that students are fully prepared for their examination years. The personal portfolio will enable students to develop work in three dimensions and in a variety of scales.

Matching the requirements of all key stages, students are taught to use a range of techniques and media, including drawing and painting. Schemes of learning will enable students to become skilled and accomplished in a wide variety of media and techniques through a progressive framework of study. Throughout Years 7 to 9, units of work allow for regularly revisiting work so that skills are developed and students become increasingly proficient in handling a range of mediums.

Within all units of work, writing frames are provided to encourage students to develop analysis of their own and other's artwork. The writing frames focus on developing analytical skills as well as developing student's ability to consider their emotional and personal response to artwork. Written work is used as a tool to develop knowledge of art and design as well as develop metacognition.

Throughout the Art curriculum, students are taught about a range of artwork from different times and cultures including contemporary. Students are encouraged to respond to other artist's work in meaningful and informed ways in order to develop ideas for their own personal artworks.

Art staff will contribute to the wider curriculum by offering trips, extra-curricular tuition and other art activities such as arts awards and work experience opportunities. Art staff should recognise and actively support and develop opportunities in the subject in order to encourage and foster the artistic skills and passions of our students.

Sharon Brookes

Head of Art